

Verulamium Museum – a practical guide [DRAFT]

General information

- For opening times, admissions and all other general info, please see our website www.stalbansmuseums.org.uk
- Assistance dogs / guide dogs are welcome, but no other dogs. There is no admission charge for carers.
- St Albans Museums looks after 4 other venues: the Hypocaust (mosaic in Verulamium Park), Clock Tower (in the town centre) and Sopwell Nunnery (ruins near town centre).
- There is also a Visual Story available separately.
- You can have a peek inside the galleries and take a virtual tour using Google Street View [here](#) (images from 2012)
- The museum is situated outside the town centre next to the park. For information on location and travel options – see our [website](#).
- During term-time, we often have school groups visiting, so the gallery can get busy during certain periods, but is generally quieter after about 3pm.

Parking

- There is an [NCP car park](#) at the front of the venue with 150 spaces, 6 disabled bays and 2 coach parking spaces.
- The car park gets very busy on weekends and during the summer. Additional public car parks are available at [Westminster Lodge](#) leisure centre at the bottom of Holywell Hill, or in the [town centre](#) (both a 15 min walk across the park). There are also a handful of spaces on King Harry Lane (Bluehouse Hill end).
- The car park type is open air with tarmac surface, with no height restriction barrier. The dimensions of the parking bay(s) are 370cm x 480cm (12ft 2in x 15ft 9in). The nearest designated bay is 15m (16yd) from the main entrance.
- The route from car park to entrance is accessible to a wheelchair user unaided.



Entrance and arrival

- Entrance to museum via steps or ramp.
- There is level access into the venue.
- The two sets of double doors open in both directions manually. The doors are double width and quite heavy.
- The door openings are 150cm (4ft 11in) wide.



Reception

- There is level access to reception from the main entrance.
- Light levels are bright.
- There is a cream, blue and green patterned floor.
- There is a manual wheelchair available for use in museum – ask staff if you would like to use it.
- The basement area is accessible from the reception area either via the lift behind the reception desk or via stairs to the right of the entrance doors.
- To enter the gallery, there is a long corridor with large glass windows which takes you to the gallery entrance.
- **Light:** the lights are dimmed inside the gallery, this is noticeable especially when entering the gallery from the corridor which can be quite bright.



Around the gallery

- There is level access to the gallery.
- A large print version of the audio transcripts for the introductory film and the 'Posthumous' video about the skeleton in the coffin are available from front desk.
- **Audio:** There is no hearing assistance system. In the gallery multiple audio tracks can be going on at once. There are background sounds in the carpenter's area such as sawing wood, dogs and chicken.
- **Gallery content:** there is bench seating around the mosaics. In the rooms about "at home", there are human and animal models that some visitors might find unsettling. In the death and burial room there are 3 coffins with human remains.
- **Mirror:** there is a large mirror between the carpenter's workshop and the villa.



Lift

- There is a lift for public use, located behind reception, approx. 12m (13yd) from main entrance.
- The lift is a standard lift - dimensions are 110cm x 140cm (3ft 7in x 4ft 7in).
- The floors accessible via the lift are G (main reception and gallery) and LG (basement).
- Staff do not need to be notified for use of the lift.
- There is not a mirror to aid reversing out of the lift or an audible announcer. There are no Braille markings, but the lift controls do have tactile markings. The lift does have a visual floor indicator. The lighting level in the lift is bright.

Basement level

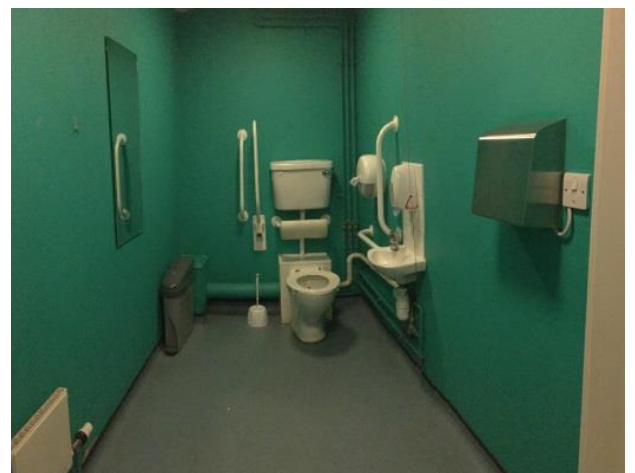
- Access to the basement is via the lift or the stairs to the right of the main entrance.
- In the basement area there are cloakroom bays, a lunchroom for school or group visits, ladies and gents toilets, an accessible toilet, a baby changing / quiet room and access to the lift.



Accessible toilet

The accessible toilet is located on the lower ground floor opposite the lift.

- This is a unisex toilet and no key is required. The door opens outwards and is operated by a twist lock / lever.
- The contrast between the walls and floor is good.
- The dimensions are 280cm x 150cm (9ft 2in x 4ft 11in).
- There is a lateral transfer space. As you face the toilet pan the transfer space is on the left and is 66cm (2ft 2in). There is a dropdown rail on the transfer side. As you face the toilet the wall-mounted grab rails are on both sides.
- There is an emergency alarm available.
- Disposal facilities are available in the cubicle.
- There is a small coat hook.
- There are mirrors placed at a lower level for ease of use. The height of the toilet seat above floor level is 46cm (1ft 6in).
- There is a hand dryer at 123cm (4ft 0in) high. There is a toilet roll holder at 108cm (3ft 7in) high. There is a sink, not placed higher than 74cm (2ft 5in). The tap type is lever.



Baby changing room / quiet room

This room is located on the lower ground floor to the left of the lift.

- The light level is bright.
- There is a wall-mounted changing table
- There is a sink and a hand dryer, chair and wall-mounted toddler seat
- There is a box of various sensory toys.



Women's Toilets:

These toilets are located on the lower ground floor to the left of the lift, approx. 16m (17yd) from the main entrance.

- Lighting levels are bright.
- Facilities are equipped with an automatically timed hand dryer. Paper towels are not available.



Men's Toilets

These toilets are located on the lower ground floor to the right of the lift approx. 17m (19yd) from the main entrance.

- Lighting levels are bright.
- Facilities are equipped with an automatically timed hand dryer. Paper towels are not available.



Additional info, events /activities

- Trails, quizzes and i-spy- worksheets are available from front desk
- Foreign language information is available from the front desk – currently available in French, German, Italian, Japanese and Hungarian.
- For events information and our What's On Guide please ask our team at the front desk.
- Documents are not currently available in Braille.
- There is not a café on site but Verulamium Park is great for a picnic or there is a [café and pubs](#) a few minutes from the museum.

We are always seeking feedback about how we can improve what we offer - if you have any feedback about this document or your visit, please get in touch with us:

museum@stalbans.gov.uk

Verulamium Museum Teaching Sessions

If you are visiting with a group, we would ask that you let us know about any students with specific needs (e.g. light or noise- sensitive, behavioural, verbal or non-verbal).



Roman artefact handling session

- Larger lecture room, max number 32 students per session.
- 4 tables with 8 chairs – flexible to group.
- Objects are genuine, some replicas.
- Lighting is bright or dimmed whilst using the projector.
- [For more info >](#)



Roman Market Day session

- Smaller lecture room.
- Tables along the walls, children sit on floor.
- Replica objects with some natural products (salt, shells, fish oil).
- Lighting is bright or dimmed whilst using the projector.
- [For more info >](#)



Lunch room

- Located in basement.
- Seating for max 36 students around tables.
- Chairs available for adults.
- Lighting is bright.
- Windows can be opened.
- Running water is accessible.

Roman Verulamium – nearby places to visit



The Roman Theatre

- Short 5 minute walk from museum
- Entry fee applies. Joint ticket available at museum
- No parking – leave car in museum car park.
- Fully wheelchair accessible over gravel paths with some short steep climbs.
- See website for more info



The Hypocaust building

- Short 7 minute walk from the museum
- Gravel path is wheel chair accessible but slightly up-hill. Can be muddy at times.
- Free entry. Open from 10-16:30 (summer), 10-15:45 (winter).



Roman City Wall and Gate

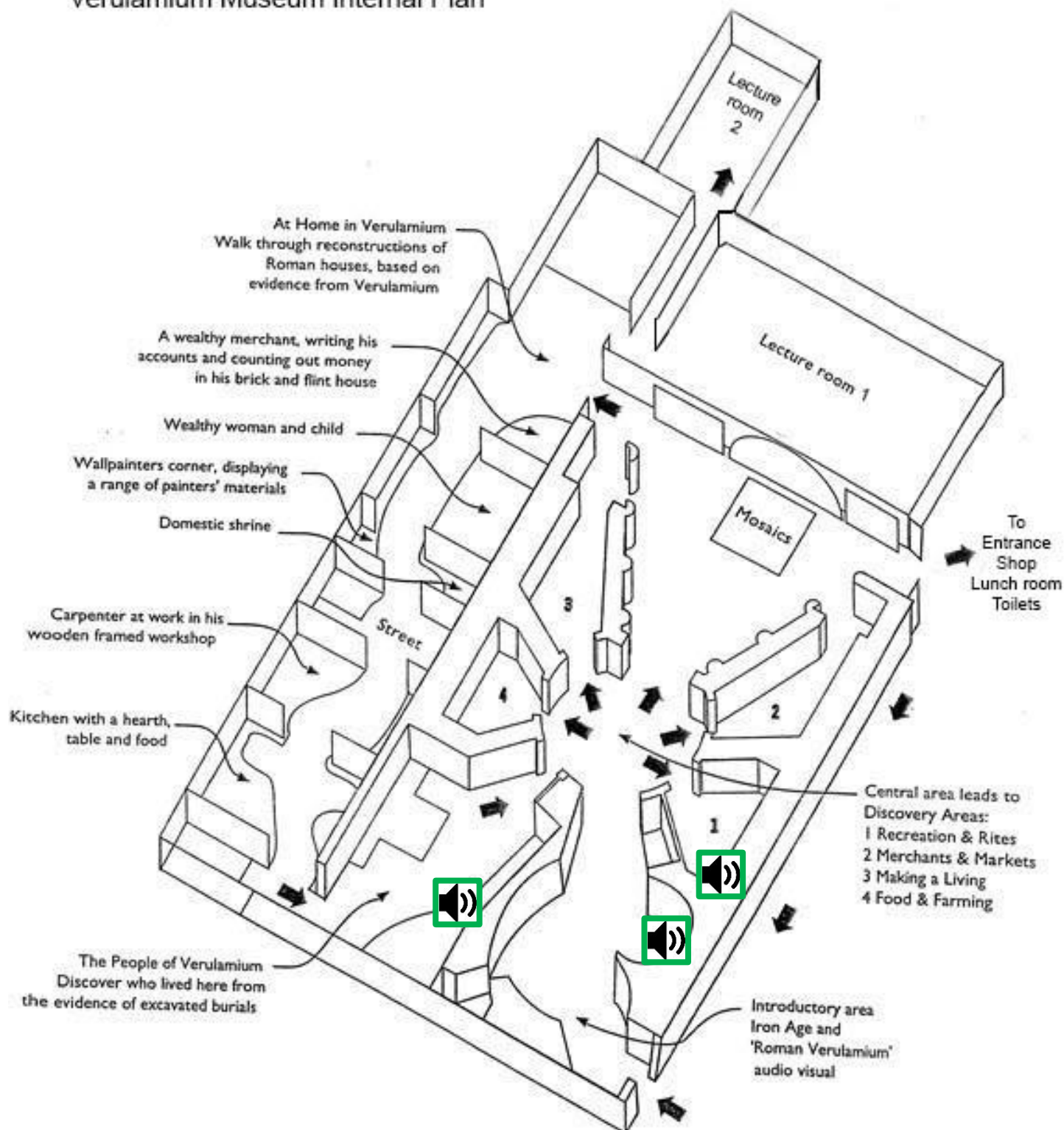
- Located in Verulamium Park just a short walk from museum (10 min)
- Open all year
- Wall remains are accessible on foot, no path – across grass.
- From museum follow path to the remains of the London Gate, leaving the Hypocaust on your right.



Verulamium Park and Lake

- Open all year
- Accessible following a tarmac footpath from the museum car park
- The park includes various areas: play areas, sport and fitness areas, picnic areas, football areas, toddlers splash park and more.
- Café and ice cream vendors

Verulamium Museum Internal Plan



Verulamium Park

- Open all year
- Parking at Verulamium Museum or at Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre
- Accessible for wheel chair users
- Cycle paths are marked in red dots.

